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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



MK Yadav Sir

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THE HINDU

Page 1

NATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE FUND

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Disaster Management)

Union govt. releases disaster relief funds for Karnataka, T.N.

Funds at last

After Tamil Nadu and Karnataka moved the Supreme Court, the Centre has sanctioned the release of disaster relief funds



	Funds approved	50% SDRF	NDRF sanctioned
Karnataka (drought)	₹3,498.82 cr.	₹44.6 cr.	₹3,454.22 cr.
T.N. (Cyclone Michaung)	₹285.54 cr.	₹406.57 cr.	₹115.49 cr.
T.N. (floods)	₹397.13 cr.		₹160.61 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Weeks after the governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka moved the Supreme Court seeking relief funds for calamities such as Cyclone Michaung, floods, and drought last year, the Union government on Friday ordered the release of ₹3,730.32 crore towards "relief assistance for natural calamity" from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).

An order by the Finance Ministry said the amount is being released to the State governments based on the recommendation of the Ministry of Home Affairs on April 24.

The MHA had approved ₹3,498.82 crore for Karnataka in view of the drought faced by the State in 2023; however, the net assistance to be released stood at ₹3,454.22 crore.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 7

Context: Recently, the Union government released ₹3,730.32 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to Karnataka and Tamil Nadu for "relief assistance for natural calamities."

National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)

- **Formation**: In 2005, the National Disaster Contingency Fund (NCCF) underwent a name change to become the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) following the enactment of the Disaster Management Act.
  - It is **legally defined in section 46** of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (DM Act), specifying its purpose and functions.
- The NDRF is kept in the **Public Account as part of the "non-interest-bearing reserve** funds.

Role of NDRF

- **Disaster Expense Coverage**: Managed by the Central Government to cover expenses related to emergency response, relief, and rehabilitation in the event of a threatening disaster or disaster.
- **Supplementary Fund**: Acts as a supplementary source to the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) in the case of severe disasters when sufficient funds are not available in the SDRF.
- **SDRF Support**: The primary fund available to State governments for immediate relief in response to officially notified disasters.
- **Financing**: Financed through the collection of a cess on specific items subject to excise and customs duties.
  - The funding is approved on an annual basis through the Finance Bill.

State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)

- **About:** It is established by each state in accordance with the Disaster Management Act 2005.
- **Recommendations**: 13th Finance Commission.
- **Government Contribution:** The Government of India allocates 75% of the total yearly allocation of SDRF to general states and 90% to special category states.
- **Authority** The State Executive Committee, led by the Chief Secretary, holds the authority to make decisions regarding all matters related to financing relief expenditures from SDRF.

HANGOR CLASS SUBMARINE

(Syllabus GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)

HANGOR CLASS SUBMARINE

China has built a variant of its Yuan class diesel-electric submarine for use by the Pakistan Navy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

THE FIRST Hangor class submarine, built by China for Pakistan, was launched on April 26 at a Wuhan shipyard. This was the first of eight submarines of this class that the Pakistan Navy is set to induct by 2028.

Basic characteristics

The Hangor class, an export variant of the Chinese Type 039A Yuan class, is a diesel-electric attack submarine, named after the now decommissioned *PNS Hangor*, which famously sank the Indian frigate *INS Khukri* during the 1971 war.

'Diesel-electric' refers to the mode of propulsion — diesel engines power the submarine when surfaced or snorkelling (as they need air to operate), while a battery, charged by the diesel engine, allows the vessel to operate while submerged. The Hangor class has four diesel engines. It is also equipped with an air independent propulsion (AIP) system, which significantly increases the submarines' endurance underwater.

Attack submarines are specifically designed for sinking other submarines or surface vessels using torpedoes, or in modern times, cruise missiles. The Hangor class has six 21-inch torpedo tubes and capabilities to launch anti-ship missiles, as well as Babur-3 subsonic cruise missiles, which have a range of 450 km.

Compared with Kalvari class

Pakistan's Hangor class is the direct counterpart of India's Kalvari class of submarines, based on the French Scorpene class. India currently operates six Kalvari class submarines, and three more will be inducted into service by the early 2030s.

In terms of size, the Hangor class is significantly bigger than the Kalvari class, which displaces 1,775 tonnes and is 67.5 m long. The Hangor class has a displacement of 2,800 tonnes, is 76 m in length, 8.4 m in width (at its widest point), and has a draught (depth of the vessel below the waterline) of 6.2 m when on the surface.



A Chinese Yuan class submarine, of which the Pak Hangor class submarine is a variant. *US Naval Institute*

The bigger size could be a disadvantage in shallow, littoral waters. The Pakistani submarine has a reported top speed of 20 knots (37 kmph).

The Kalvari class, like the Hangor class, runs on diesel-electric propulsion. However, the models India currently operates do not come with built-in AIP. This means that in terms of underwater endurance, the Hangor class potentially has an edge over the Kalvari class.

This matters because submarines' USP is their ability to be stealthy — much of which comes from their capability to remain underwater for extended periods of time. Conventional diesel-electric submarines need to surface to recharge their batteries after a few days (2-5, depending on the battery used), making them detectable to enemy radar and exhaust fumes sensors. An AIP system can increase submarines' underwater endurance manifold (upwards of 15-20 days).

In terms of armament, the Kalvari class carries six 21 inch, German-made torpedoes, and missile systems such as French Exocet anti-ship missiles, and MICA anti-air missiles.

Context: The recently launched first Hangor class submarine, constructed by China for Pakistan, emerged from a Wuhan shipyard.

Hangor Class Submarine

- **About:** This was the first of eight submarines of this class that the Pakistan Navy is set to induct into its fleet by 2028.
- **Basic Characteristics**
  - **Diesel-Electric Propulsion:** The Hangor-class utilizes diesel engines for surface and snorkeling operations, complemented by a battery for submerged operations, enhancing its stealth capabilities.
  - **Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) System**: Equipped with an AIP system, the submarine extends its endurance underwater, allowing for longer missions without the need to resurface frequently.
  - **Attack Submarine Design**: Tailored for offensive operations, the Hangor-class is adept at engaging and neutralizing other submarines or surface vessels using a variety of weapons.
  - **Missile Capabilities:** Beyond torpedoes, the Hangor-class can launch anti-ship missiles and the Babur-3 subsonic cruise missile, providing a versatile and formidable arsenal for naval engagements.

Comparison with India's Kalavari class

- **Size and Dimensions**: The Hangor class surpasses the Kalavari class in size, with a displacement of 2,800 tons and a length of 76 meters.
- **Speed:** Both submarines, Hangor and Kalavari, share a reported top speed of 20 knots (37 kmph).
- **Torpedoes and Missiles**: Kalavari class is armed with six 21-inch German-made torpedoes and sophisticated missile systems like Exocet and MICA, potentially offering superior battle capabilities compared to Hangor.
- **Vertical Launch Systems and Cruise Missiles**: Neither the Hangor nor the Kalavari class submarines feature vertical launch systems, limiting their capacity for carrying larger cruise missiles like the Brahmos-NG found on India's nuclear Arihant class submarines.

THE HINDU Page 11

EARTH'S MAGNETIC FIELD

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Geography)

Rocks with evidence of the earth's magnetic field discovered

The Hindu Bureau

Geologists at MIT and Oxford University have found ancient rocks in Greenland that bear the oldest remnants of the earth's early magnetic field. The researchers determined that the rocks are about 3.7 billion years old and retain signatures of a magnetic field with a strength of at least 15 microtesla. The ancient field is similar in magnitude to the earth's magnetic field today.

The results of the study published in the *Journal of Geophysical Research*, represent some of the earliest evidence of a magnetic field surrounding the earth. Previous studies have shown evidence for a magnetic field on the earth that is at least 3.5 billion years old. The new study is extending the magnetic field's lifetime by another 200 million years.

"If the earth's magnetic field was around a few hundred million years earlier, it could have played a critical role in making the planet habitable," Benjamin Weiss from the Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences at MIT and one of the authors told MIT News.

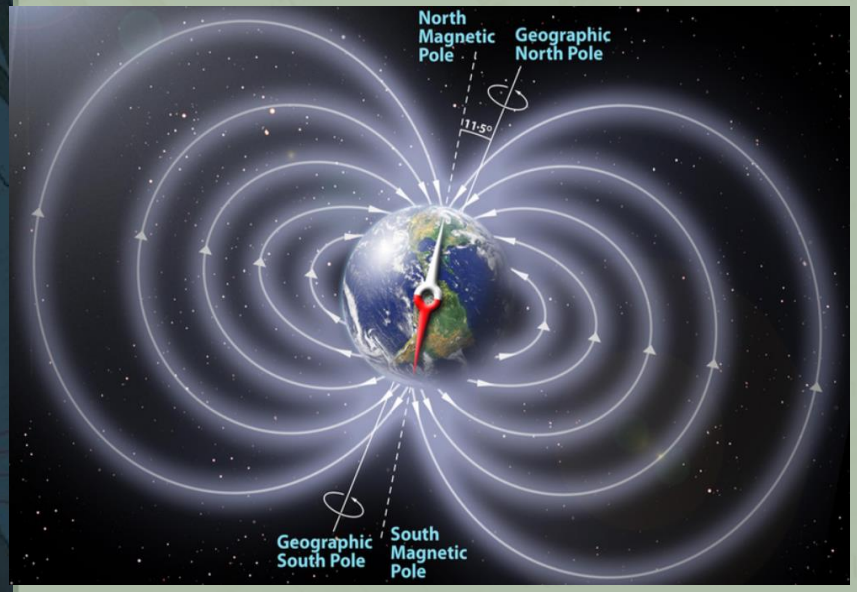
Magnetic shield

Scientists suspect that, early in its evolution, the earth was able to foster life, in part due to an early magnetic field that was strong enough to retain a life-sustaining atmosphere and simultaneously shield the planet from damaging solar radiation.

Exactly how early and robust this magnetic shield was was not known, though there has been evidence dating its existence to about 3.5 billion years ago. The objective of the researchers was to find rocks that still held signatures of the earth's magnetic field when the rocks first formed. To get to the rocks that were hopefully preserved and unaltered since their original deposition, the team sampled from rock formations in the Isua Supracrustal Belt in southwestern Greenland.

The team returned to MIT with whole rock samples of banded iron formations – a rock type that appears as stripes of iron-rich and silica-rich rock. Given their composition, the researchers suspect the rocks were originally formed in primordial oceans prior to the rise in atmospheric oxygen around 2.5 billion years ago.

They used uranium to lead ratio and found that some of the magnetised minerals were likely about 3.7 billion years old. Through this careful process of remagnetisation, the team concluded that the rocks likely harbored an ancient, 3.7-billion-year-old magnetic field, with a magnitude of at least 15 microtesla. Today, the earth's magnetic field measures around 30 microtesla.



Context: Geologists at MIT and Oxford University have found ancient rocks in Greenland that bear the oldest remnants of Earth's early magnetic field.

Key Findings of Study

- The new study extends the Earth's magnetic field lifetime by 200 million years.
- Early Earth may have fostered life due to a strong magnetic field retaining a habitable atmosphere and shielding from solar radiation.
- Despite evidence dating back 3.5 billion years, the exact strength and timing of the early magnetic field were unknown.

Earth's Magnetic Field

- **About**: **Earth's Magnetic Field & Pole:** The Earth's magnetic field is represented by a field of a magnetic dipole currently tilted at **an angle of about 11° with respect to Earth's rotational axis**, as if there were an enormous bar magnet placed at that angle through the centre of Earth.
  - **Note:** The North geomagnetic pole actually represents the South pole of Earth's magnetic field, and conversely the South geomagnetic pole corresponds to the north pole of Earth's magnetic field.
  - **Reason:** It is because opposite magnetic poles attract and the north end of a magnet, like a compass needle, points toward Earth's South magnetic field, i.e., the North geomagnetic pole near the Geographic North Pole). As of 2015, the North geomagnetic pole was located on Ellesmere Island, Nunavut, Canada.
- **Shifting of magnetic poles**: Unlike the geographic poles, Earth's magnetic poles are not fixed and tend to wander over time. The magnetic poles flip approximately every 200,000 to 300,000 years according to NASA, though it has been more than twice that long since the last reversal.

INDIAN EXPRESS

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ELECTRONIC TRADING PLATFORMS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

Electronic trading platforms: RBI issues draft

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India on Monday proposed a revised regulatory framework for Electronic Trading Platforms (ETPs) in the wake of increased integration of the onshore forex market with offshore markets. Market makers too have been requesting the Reserve Bank to allow access to offshore ETPs offering Indian Rupee (INR) products. ETP refers to any electronic system, other than a recognised stock exchange, on which transactions in eligible instruments are contracted. Eligible instruments mean securities, money market instruments, foreign exchange instruments, derivatives, or other instruments of like nature. PTI

Context: The Reserve Bank of India recently introduced a revised regulatory framework for Electronic Trading Platforms (ETPs) due to the heightened integration of the onshore forex market with offshore markets.

Electronic Trading Platforms (ETPs)

- **Definition:** These are electronic systems facilitating transactions in eligible instruments such as securities, money market instruments, foreign exchange instruments, derivatives, etc., outside recognized stock exchanges.
- **Regulatory Authorization**: In India, operation of an ETP requires prior authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as per 'The Electronic Trading Platforms (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2018'.
- **Legal Compliance and Liability**: Resident entities operating ETPs without RBI authorization and engaging in payment transactions outside India may face legal consequences under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, and Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.
- **Instrument Approval**: ETPs authorized by the Reserve Bank are permitted to host transactions only in instruments approved by the RBI.
- **Authorization Criteria**: Entities seeking authorization as ETP operators must be incorporated companies in India.
    - **Minimum Net-Worth Requirement**: An entity aspiring to operate as an ETP operator must maintain a minimum net-worth of Rs. 5 crore and uphold this threshold continuously.
    - **Transition for Existing Entities**: Existing ETP operators with a net-worth below Rs. 5 crore have a one-year grace period from authorization to achieve the prescribed minimum net-worth.
    - **Banking Institutions Requirement**: Banks intending to operate ETPs must allocate a minimum capital of Rs. 5 crore for this purpose.

PIB Apr 29

CRITICAL MINERALS SUMMIT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

Mines Ministry to Hold Two-day Critical Minerals Summit from Tomorrow

Context: The Ministry of Mines will hold a two day "Critical Minerals Summit: Enhancing Beneficiation and Processing Capabilities" in New Delhi.

Critical Minerals Summit

- **About:** It is a pivotal event designed to foster collaboration, share knowledge and drive innovation in the field of critical mineral beneficiation and processing.
- **Organizers**: Ministry of Mines, Government of India, in collaboration with the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (Shakti), the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), and the Indian Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD).
- **Objectives**: To foster collaboration, share knowledge, and drive innovation in the field of critical mineral beneficiation and processing.
- **Stakeholder Diversity:** The summit will bring together a diverse array of Indian and international stakeholders, including industry leaders, startups, government officials, scientists, academics, and policy experts.
- **Demand for CRMs**: One of its key focuses is addressing the increasing demand for Critical Raw Materials (CRMs) necessary for renewable energy systems and electric vehicles, aligning with India's strategic development goals.
- **Identified Key Minerals**: The Ministry of Mines has identified eight key minerals for focus at the summit, including Glauconite (Potash), Lithium – Rare Earth Elements (Laterite), Chromium, Platinum Group, Graphite, Tungsten associated with Graphite, Rare Earths (RE), and Vanadium associated with Graphite.

Critical Minerals

- **About**: These are a group of minerals that are essential for various industrial sectors and have strategic importance for a country's economy and security.
- **Examples:** Antimony, beryllium, bismuth, cobalt, copper, gallium, germanium, lithium, vanadium, etc.
- **Top Producers**: China, Russia, Chile, Indonesia and Japan.
- **Priority in Industrial Sectors**: The Critical Minerals List prioritizes minerals that are indispensable for industrial sectors such as high-tech electronics, telecommunications, transport, and defense.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS

Apr 28

DIGI YATRA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Govt Initiatives/Policies)

Digi Yatra 2.0: Foreign travel, hotel check-ins

Plan includes hassle-free access to public places

S SHANTHI
Bengaluru, April 29

DIGI YATRA IS set to spread wings and will be available for international travellers before the end of 2025. That's not all. The makeover plan includes using the app for hotel check-ins and hassle-free access to public places.

To enable the facility for foreign travellers, Digi Yatra Foundation (DYF), a non-profit organisation working on the project, will create e-passport verifiable credentials by integrating the soon-to-be-launched chip-enabled e-passports into the app. At present, it is prototype testing the e-passport-based enrollment. "We are eagerly waiting for the rollout of electronic passports in India to fast-track things at our end," Suresh Khadakbhavi, CEO, DYF, said during an interaction with FE.

DYF is also in talks with various stakeholders to ensure automated border control practices for departure and arrival immigration. "This will enable automated immigration clearances upon arrival and departure, eliminating the need for physical passport verification and saving more than an hour's time for the passengers," Khadakbhavi said.

He cites an example. "If you are flying from Bengaluru to Frankfurt, you would share your credentials with Bengaluru officials using the app. Then you go through the seamless process. Once you land in Frankfurt, the immigration authorities there will have already received your credentials. And now instead of waiting for two hours, you can go through automated border control, scan your passport, match the face and go."

DYF, which is co-owned by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and private airports, also plans to align with IATA One-ID, for global interoperability. It is an initiative by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), representing around 320 airlines in over 120 countries, to streamline passenger journeys with advanced sharing of information and a contactless process at the airport based on biometric-enabled identification.

Many European countries are also testing out digital travel. Last year, Finland launched the world's first digital travel document pilot programme at Helsinki Airport. Croatia, the Netherlands and Canada are also experimenting with the concept.

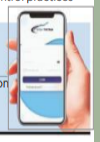
The biometric boarding system that uses facial recognition technology for verification at Indian airports last month had an upgrade in its backend system, and users were asked to install the new app.

Continued on Page 12



TAKING FLIGHT

- E-passport verifiable credentials on the cards for foreign travellers
- Integration of soon-to-be-launched chip-enabled e-passports
- **At present, it is prototype testing e-passport-based enrollment**
- In talks with various stakeholders to ensure automated border control practices
- Plans to align with IATA One-ID for global interoperability
- It is also a preparation for becoming a global transit hub



Context: The Digi yatra is recently poised to expand its reach, extending to international travelers by the end of 2025, with plans to incorporate features like hotel check-ins and hassle-free access to public places through the app.

Digi Yatra

- **About:** It is an industry-led initiative co-ordinated by the Ministry in line with the Prime Minister of India's Digital India's vision to transform the nation into a digitally empowered society.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Civil Aviation
- **4 Key Pillars:** Connected Passengers, Connected Airports, Connected Flying and Connected Systems
- **Joint Venture:** AAI (26% share) and 5 Airports (BIAL, DIAL, GHIAL, MIAL and CIAL).
- **Objective:**
  - Provide a simple and easy experience to all air travelers.
  - Utilize existing infrastructure efficiently through a "Digital Framework."
  - Result in reduced operational costs.
  - Replace current manual processes with digital ones for enhanced efficiency.
  - Improve current system performance to elevate security standards.

Digi Yatra Foundation

- **About:** It is a not-for-profit company established under section 8 and registered under the Companies Act 2013.
- **Mission**: DYF is dedicated to implementing a digital ecosystem to enhance air travel efficiency in line with the Digi Yatra Policy by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA).
- **Core Initiative**: DYF is developing the Digi Yatra Central Ecosystem (DYCE) as the cornerstone of its efforts.
- **Regulatory Compliance**: All initiatives undertaken by DYF adhere to the regulatory guidelines set forth by MoCA and other relevant authorities.

THE HINDU Page 3

RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Governance)

Can't refuse information under RTI because it is 'bulky': Delhi High Court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The High Court has held that a public authority cannot deny information under the Right to Information (RTI) Act on the grounds that the information sought is "bulky".

The court said that denying information on the grounds that the information sought by an individual is bulky "will amount to adding one more exemption under Section 8 of the RTI Act".

The court made the remarks while rejecting a petition by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), a Centre-run institute, challenging a January 2016 order of the Central Information Commissioner (CIC) directing it to provide the "complete and categorical information" to a former employee Kamal Jit Chibber.



Section 8 of the Right to Information Act lists grounds on which a public authority can refuse to disclose information.

IIFT case

Mr. Chibber had sought year-wise details of income and expenditure with respect to various programmes run by the institute. He had also sought year-wise details of grants received from the Centre and details of how the institute spent these grants.

The High Court noted that the "only reason given" by IIFT for not providing the information sought by Mr. Chibber was that the information is "bulky".

It ruled that the information sought by the former employee of the institute does not fall under any of the exemptions under Section 8 of the RTI Act.

Section 8 of the Right to Information (RTI) Act lists several grounds on which a public authority can refuse to disclose information.

"In view of the above, this court does not find any reason to interfere with the order of the CIC," the court said in its April 26 order.

Context: The High Court has held that a public authority cannot deny information under the Right to Information (RTI) Act on the grounds that the information sought is "bulky".

Right to Information Act

- **About:** The RTI Act, enacted by the Parliament of India, delineates the regulations and protocols governing citizens' access to information.
- **Replaced by**: Freedom of Information Act, 2002.
- **Features**
- **Time Limit for Providing Information**: 30 days from the day of application.
    - 2 days for information concerning life or liberty of a person.
- **Penalties**: 250/day up to a maximum of 25000 for:
    - Not accepting an application.
    - Delaying information without reasonable cause.
    - Knowingly giving incomplete, incorrect or misleading information.
    - Destroying the requested information.
- **Fundamental Right**: RTI has been given the status of a fundamental right under Article 19(1) of the Constitution.
- **Exemptions**: The Act, although advocating transparency, incorporates exemptions to disclosure, encompassing categories such as data concerning national security, privacy of individuals, and information pertinent to ongoing investigations.
- **Fees**: Public authorities are entitled to levy fees for furnishing information, with the fee framework established by the government, contingent on the information's nature and the mode of access, be it paper-based or electronic.
- **Power to impose penalty**: The CIC and the State Information Commission.

Section 8(1)(j)

- **About**: According to this section, information that cannot be withheld from the Parliament or a State Legislature must not be denied to any individual under the RTI Act.
- **Specific Provision**: Section 8(1)(j) addresses personal information not related to public activity or interest, which if disclosed, would invade privacy, unless there's a larger public interest justifying disclosure.
- **Criteria for Exemption**: The decision to exempt information under Section 8(1)(j) rests with the CPIO, SPIO, or the Appellate Authority, based on whether disclosure would cause unwarranted invasion of privacy.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS

Page 2

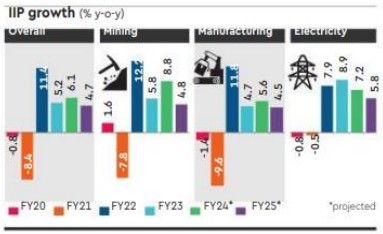
INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

IIP growth seen slowing to 4.7%

Base effect, tepid demand may weigh on FY25 forecast

PRIYANSH VERMA
New Delhi, April 29



THE GROWTH IN factory output, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), is likely to slow down to around 4.7% in FY25 from an estimated 6.1% in FY24 in the backdrop of the statistical effect of a high base and fading away of pent-up demand, say economists.

In April-February FY24, IIP growth has averaged 6%.

An expectation of a slower IIP growth would also mean GDP growth in FY25 may end up lower than 7.5% projected by the National Statistical Office for FY24.

The Reserve Bank of India projected the GDP growth at 7% in FY25 but several economists have pegged it at 6.5-6.7% while the International Monetary Fund has projected it at 6.8%. The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) expects all three sectors – 'mining', 'manufacturing', and 'electricity' – to register a slower growth in the current fiscal year as compared to FY24.

'Mining' is likely to grow at 4.8% in FY25, down from 8.8% in FY24, and 'manufacturing' growth is seen slowing to 4.5% from 5.6%. 'Electricity' output growth is also likely to slow down to 5.8% in FY25 from 7.2% in FY24.

Within manufacturing – which accounts for about 78% of the IIP – the output of coke and refined petroleum products, food, beverages and textiles is likely to grow at a faster pace in FY25 as against FY24. CMIE expects coke and refined petroleum products to drive much of manufacturing and IIP growth as major capacity additions are planned this year. The sub-segment carries a weight of 14% in the manufacturing group.

As per CMIE's Capex database, six projects belonging to the refinery industry worth ₹31,630 crore are expected to be completed during FY25. Of these, two projects from Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) and Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) are expected to add capacity of 16.2 million tonne (MT) on petroleum products.

Within the use-based category, the output of consumer durables and non-durables goods are likely to witness an accelerated growth due to low base and revival in rural demand while the growth of capital goods is likely to ease, along with intermediate and infrastructure goods.

"While we do expect some revival in private capex, it may come later in the year supported by revamped PLI and improving capacity utilisation," said Anitha Rangan, economist, Equirus Securities. "Therefore overall, capital goods could be the slowest in growth."

Both consumer durables and non-durables recorded a growth of 3.3% and 4.2%, respectively, in the first eleven months of FY24. This is only likely to grow forward, thereby helping push up the IIP growth.

"Consumption growth in FY25 will be led by rural demand with monsoon expected to be better, supported by *La Nina* conditions. In FY24 rural demand has been weak as crop output was impacted by uneven monsoon," said Gaura Sen Gupta, economist, IDFC FIRST Bank.

Use-based Classification of Industries under IIP

New Series (Base year 2011-12)	No of Item Groups	Weight %
Primary Goods	15	34.05
Intermediate Goods	110	17.22
Capital Goods	67	8.22
Infrastructure/Construction Goods	29	12.34
Consumer Durables	86	12.84
Consumer Non-Durables	100	15.33
Total	407	100

Context: Economists predict a recent slowdown in factory output growth, projecting it to drop to approximately 4.7% in FY25 from an estimated 6.1% in FY24 due to the statistical impact of a high base and diminishing pent-up demand.

Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

- **About**: IIP is an indicator that measures the changes in the volume of production of industrial products during a given period.
- **Published by:** National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- It is a composite indicator that measures the growth rate of industry groups classified under:
  - **Broad sectors**: Mining, Manufacturing, and Electricity.
  - **Use-based sectors**: Basic Goods, Capital Goods, and Intermediate Goods.
  - **Base Year**: 2011-2012.
- **Significance of IIP**: It is used by government agencies including the Ministry of Finance, the Reserve Bank of India, etc, for policy-making purposes.
- IIP remains extremely relevant for the calculation of the quarterly and advance GDP (Gross Domestic Product) estimates.

PIB Apr 30

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Governance)

Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) delegation to visit Bangladesh for bilateral discussions for renewal of MoU between National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) and Bangladesh Ministry of Public administration

Context: There are currently ongoing bilateral discussions regarding the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) India and the Bangladesh Ministry of Public Administration for the period 2024-2029.

National Centre for Good Governance

- **About**: An autonomous institute under the aegis of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Government of India.
- **Constituted in**: February, 2014 by upgrading National Institute Administrative Research (NIAR), the arm of LBSNAA-the IAS Training Academy at Mussoorie.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Mission**: Set up to bring about governance reforms through studies, training, knowledge sharing, and promotion of good ideas.
- **Aim**: To carry out policy-relevant research and prepare case studies while curating training courses for civil servants from India and other developing countries.
- **Origin**: Traces its origin to the National Institute of Administrative Research (NIAR), established in 1995 by the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA).
- **Objectives:** Function as a national repository on information regarding best practices, initiatives, and methodologies promoting Good Governance, e-Governance, etc.
- **Governing Body**: Managed under the overall superintendence and direction of the Governing Body, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary.
    - Comprises Secretaries of 9 ministries/departments and 5 eminent persons, including academicians, administrators, specialists, innovators, and heads of reputed institutions.
    - The Director General, acting as the Chief Executive, serves as the Member-Secretary of the Governing Body.

LIVEMINT

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CDRI

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Disaster Management)

Disaster-proof infra group to unveil telecom study at CoP 29

These studies are expected to be completed in the next three months

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The India-led Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) will unveil its new study on building disaster resilient telecommunications infrastructure and a new set of funding recipients for small island countries (SIDs) at the next CoP climate conference.

In an interview with *Mint*, CDRI director general Amit Prothi said that the organization will take its work on telecom infrastructure global and will start projects in foreign nations this year.

"We're doing studies across several Indian states to understand where the risks are in the telecommunications space. So, is your equipment lying in a flood prone area? Is your tower designed for the new wind speeds that we might be experiencing? These are just basic things but there's a whole systemic approach to understand where risks might be in your infrastructure system," Prothi told *Mint*.

"Resilient infrastructure is about making sure that the infrastructure continues to provide services when there are events like flood, earthquake or cyclone. We're doing studies across several Indian states to understand the challenges and bottlenecks in the telecommunications space," Prothi said.

> The coalition's new study is on building disaster-resilient telecom infrastructure and new set of funding recipients for small island countries

These studies are expected to be completed in the next three months, with plans to unveil them at the next Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC or 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference (CoP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan later this year.

CDRI also plans to launch the second call of the Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) next month in Antigua Barbuda to continue assisting SIDs and incorporate it in its COP29 agenda.

IRIS, essentially a multi-year grant funding mechanism, promotes resilient, sustainable, and inclusive infrastructure development in small island countries. The IRIS 'Call for Proposals' has been designed to channel support in SIDS through projects based on key themes that emerged from extensive consultations and inputs from SIDS stakeholders.

The key themes are risk informed policy and planning, implementation readiness, access to finance, and inclusion mainstreaming. CDRI launched the first call last year.

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Context: At the upcoming COP climate conference, the India-led Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) will present a recent study on constructing disaster-resilient telecommunications infrastructure and announce additional funding recipients for small island countries (SIDs).

Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

- **About**: It was established in 2019 under the leadership of the Government of India.
- **Support from**: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).
- **Partnership**: CDRI is a multi-stakeholder global partnership comprising national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks, the private sector, and academic institutions.
- **Objective**: CDRI aims to promote the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks.
    - To ensure sustainable development through resilient infrastructure.
- **Mission:** CDRI seeks to rapidly expand the development and retrofit of resilient infrastructure.

Functions:

- CDRI will seek to identify and promote best practices and provide access to capacity building.
- CDRI will work towards standardization of designs, processes, and regulations relating to infrastructure creation and management.
- CDRI may identify and estimate the risks to, and from, large infrastructure in the event of different kinds of disasters in member countries.
- CDRI may include countries, UN bodies, financial institutions, and other groups working on disaster management as its members.
- CDRI seeks to help member countries integrate disaster management policies into all their activities.
- CDRI will help member countries in setting up institutions and regulatory provisions to ensure the creation of resilient infrastructure.

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